ABC NEWS -STS-6 LAUNCH (4-4-1983)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c)

Uploaded by DANNOTCH'S NEWSVIDEOS (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7X0LKts7k4FT498Id_x5sg) on Tue May 04 2021.

From April 4th, 1983 ABC NEWS coverage of STS-6 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This was the first flight of Space Shuttle Challenger.

- Launched at 1:30:00 P.M E.T

  Commander: Paul J. Weitz
  Pilot: Karol J. Bobko
  Mission Specialist 1: Story Musgrave
  Mission Specialist 2:Donald H. Peterson

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c)

[Music] we interrupt our regular program schedule to bring you the following special report from abc news [Music] this is launch coverage of america's latest space shuttle new challenge in space good afternoon i'm frank reynolds in washington and we are about to witness and vicariously participate in a new challenge in space there have been five space shuttle missions before but they were all flown by the tried and true and you might say venerable colombia but now there is a brand new spacecraft out there on the pad challenger the latest addition to america's fleet of spaceships and down at cape canaveral just itching i know to turn around and stare out there at the pad is lynn sure lynn what we see if the weather from here looks just great it is absolutely gorgeous here frank but the problem is that it was only gorgeous at ground level up until a few hours ago as late as last night just before midnight they thought that would be a no-go for challenger because the jet stream had extremely high turbulence at an extremely high altitude about 40 000 feet they said conditions were unacceptable as of last night however that's all changed we now know that the law the wins aloft are go challenger will take off despite the jet stream so here we are along with our colleague gene cernan the apollo astronaut gene it's good to be here lynn and uh frank it is good to be here again account now is uh within five minutes of launching today uh we do have a uh a beautiful day the wins aloft that we're going to give us a problem with turbulence in the spacecraft certainly have uh subsided uh we have the swing arm of the white room now it's away from the spacecraft it's on internal power she seems ready to go and uh indeed we do have a new spacecraft frank but we also got a new crew we've got one veteran and uh we've got four rookie trucks and three rookies with an awful lot of experience at which time and just to uh give their names and give people their faces a little bit too the commander of this mission is paul white he's a fellow that flew in skylab

00:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c&t=120s)

white he's a fellow that flew in skylab his co-pilot is carol beau bobco as for the two mission specialists ms-1 as he called dr story musgrave a doctor and ms2 donald peterson and of course musgrave and peterson and the two fellows who will launch the satellite this evening and they will also take the space walk on thursday however the fuel cells are still receiving some fuels from ground support equipment for another minute this of course is the voice of paris launch control 13 seconds by the way probably has uh very close to 60 years about 15 years experience training not particularly for this fight for it but for space flight engineering on the three minute point t minus three minutes and counting the engine gimbal or movement check of the main engines is underway the liquid oxygen valve new vehicle of course is a much lighter vehicle than columbia was so it can carry heavier payloads that's what we're going to be seeing on this mission lighter construction also the engines 104 thrust much more powerful and the heavier payload as i mentioned this is a new spacecraft we have operated engines and of course we're putting that very valuable cells ground supplier communication satellite that nasa will use for about the next 10 years to communicate with all of its spacecraft fuel cells which they're talking about now they said they might have had a problem yesterday obviously that was correct cap or gaseous oxygen that arm carries away vapors from the oxygen tank while the tank is full on the pad that little beanie cap actually covers the fuel tank the liquid oxygen hydrogen we see it's swinging away now move to their start position and the astronauts have cleared the caution and warning memories t minus one minute 56 seconds and the liquid hydrogen vent valve has been closed flight pressurization is underway gene and lynn uh there are no ejection seats in this minus westcraft either there are no ejection seats and all four crewmen now of course are sitting right on a flight deck uh one right behind the

[00:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=240s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=240s)

on a flight deck uh one right behind the other they can all see out uh during the launch and of course if they did have to abort back uh and fly the spacecraft back to cape kennedy they'd uh they'd have to do just that fly it back they cannot eject out of this spacecraft we are now in an operational mode no longer in a test mode in approximately five seconds from now you're seeing the future i think of commercial space flight begin although we had to start last with the last shuttle flight i think we're really beginning to see uh a foothold take place at this time tank is at flight pressure coming up on the one minute point in our countdown frank this is heartbeat time at about one minute it's one minute firing system for the sound suppression water system is also coming up on one more hole in 31 seconds of course 31 seconds is where the second space shuttle stopped and did not go that was a heart stopper while you're talking about it a hydrogen uh flowing through the engines prior to engine ignition does not accumulate t minus 40 seconds and counting we are just seconds away from switching command other countdown to the onboard computers t minus 30 seconds and counting we are go for auto sequence start the hydraulic power units on the srbs have started t minus 20 seconds and counting the first thing we'll see is the shuttle main engines light on just before t zero 14 13 12 11 10 we're go for main engine ignition seven six we have main engine ignition four three two one [Music] zero it looks super down here

[00:06:13 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=373s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=373s)

30 seconds we're already through about 600 miles an hour she's climbing on all three main engines coming down to 81 that's a planned reduction in power but he lifted off at 104 percent of the rated power per second if anything it looked brighter and felt stronger than the last one if you had to paint a picture you could not have painted a prettier one are we likely to be able to see the srv separation one minute frank it's so clear here i'm sure we can see it with our naked we are eye live main engine rivals going back to 104 challengers go at throttle up challenger your go at throttle up who's doing is that they've got to go and that the engines are performing right on specifications so as general and said two and a half months later well that's all right that's all right i think nasa's to be congratulated really for risking embarrassment and ridicule by making sure that they had this thing right before they went slightly depressed no problem his point was you delay now you ensure mission safety later 4100 feet per second out to 15 miles downrange 14 miles frank we will see them here uh with the naked eye mission is now under control of the johnson space center 5100 feet per second 20 miles in altitude downrange 22 nautical miles and soon we should be able to see the separation of the solid rocket boosters pushing away lightweight solid rocket boosters and there they go we can see them from here

[00:08:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=482s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=482s)

solid rockets are gone uh she's flying totally on her own engine first performance was nominal another five and a half minutes for the engines to burn solid rocket boosters will fall into the atlantic ocean about 160 miles from the kennedy space center and will be retrieved there challenger you have two engine power capability portions of the boosters are reusable in fact there are parts from the very first shuttle flight on this flight parts of the booster have been reused of course that's the whole idea of the shuttle reusability three minutes elapsed time velocity 6800 feet per second altitude 39 miles challenger how does it look to you tony it looks beautiful it really looks good all three main engines still at 104 percent makes you wish you were long challengers go at three minutes 15 seconds you'll have your chance soon flight director jay green taking a status check at all positions prior to challenger reaching negative return point this is a very important point in the mission because it gives them the capability to fly on two engines across the atlantic must be 700 7800 feet per second 47 miles altitude challenger your negative return negative return they cannot kennedy space center well they're going to have a trip across the atlantic if there's nothing else 127 miles an altitude of 50 nautical miles velocity 8 700 feet per second well that was so gorgeous let's take another look we got lots of pictures lots of cameras here's a replay of the launch look at that speed build up how would you like to be on that one lynn i'd love

[00:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=600s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=600s)

you like to be on that one lynn i'd love it wherever a lady's going next time your chance may come this person next here's another view it could not have been a clearer day we can see it roll here right at this point she rolls 90 degrees and then goes into orbit on her back story muskrat is probably just looking out the window he has absolutely no chores on the way up frank i must tell you that when there was the srb step it was right above our booth here i've never seen it quite so close really really well here's a map now that shows us exactly where they are they're heading out toward mid-atlantic heading toward the coast of africa with uh only five minutes and 12 seconds of uh time elapsed since they took off well the uh there's the shots of course are so great that we'd like to show them to you again from a slightly different angle so here is another replay using uh somewhat different cameras look at all the swamp there between the camera and the actual launch pad but you can still see that that roll over see it just climbs on a mountain of flame doesn't it flame frank the surface wind was perfect so that we saw it lift off right from the instant it left the pad there was no obscure by the smoke at all and apparently they didn't have any problem when they got up pretty high either with all the winds that had been causing some concern there's always something that comes along at the last minute that people find themselves talking about that possibly could interfere six minutes and six seconds into the mission now and challenger continues on its way across the atlantic they are of course going to be very busy they've got a mission to perform yet today and then the space walk and everything else coming up so this is going to be an exciting five

[00:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=720s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7IQNT-_B2c&t=720s)

so this is going to be an exciting five or six days for these astronauts and jules bergman who's watched them all go is at mission control in houston at the johnson space center and we want to call in jules right now jules i know it wasn't quite as much fun as watching it go from the cape but you two must have been thrilled to see it uh lift off as it did indeed i was frank less than two hours from now before the end of the first orbit the astronauts will open the payload bay doors then just before midnight tonight eastern time they'll release tdrs the advanced communication satellite that is a single major goal of this flight thursday the three and a half hour evie air space walk proving that man can do useful work in space from the shuttle early saturday they're due to land at edwards air force base in california a flight plan in brief for this six shuttle flight thank you jules the uh do we have just a moment to talk about the uh the communication satellite which is really going to be a very very important addition lynn uh can you tell us a little bit about that uh in your closing comments i sure can frank i wish we should say what that gorgeous picture is that we're looking at right now obviously one of the chase planes or one of the air air force planes that's up there taking those pictures from space the satellite that jules mentioned is indeed the primary goal of this mission it's a very advanced communication satellite it is the heaviest payload yet to go up when they get up tonight about 10 hours into the mission that whole package will be ejected what you see is the tdrs or the satellite riding on top an upper stage that will give its own burn later on and then send the tdrs up to what they call geosynchronous orbit about 22 000 miles high the purpose of it when it gets up there then the satellite will open up and you will see it has these magnificent uh solar arrays and panels and antennas that will just unfold uh it's been referred to as a satellite ballet opening up in space and that will ultimately form part of a three satellite network that will provide almost continual voice

00:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c&t=841s)

that will provide almost continual voice coverage for our spacecraft in the future uh that means that in the future when astronauts are up there we don't have to go through these periods of of waiting till they pass over ground stations we'll be able to listen to them and hear them and talk to them and maybe even see them all the time that's what tdrs is all about thank you uh thank you very much lynn gene what are your thoughts now as you've seen it go again well my thoughts right now is that they're in or they're not quite in orbit safely but the uh those new engines did perform flawlessly they had main engine cut off they have a small engine burn to get them yet in orbit but uh it's it's it truly is still a challenge frank uh without any and now we're going to take a few moments off and then we'll be back for a few moments stay with us breathtaking but thank god routine if that word can ever really be applied to an event that literally shakes the earth the communication satellite as lynn told us will be launched tonight but on thursday afternoon at approximately 4 30 eastern time we'll come back on the air to bring you the spacewalk by the two mission specialists they'll be out in the open cargo bay in the openness of space so we'll broadcast that on thursday afternoon and of course we'll have a complete report on today's launch and all the activities tonight on abc's world news tonight now for lynn shearer and gene cernan at cape canaveral and jules bergman in houston this is frank reynolds in washington [Music] throughout the mission stay with abc news to follow the flight of challenger [Music] live coverage of today's space shuttle launch has been a special events presentation of abc news we now resume our regular program

00:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7lQNT-_B2c&t=960s)

we now resume our regular program schedule after this from our local station

---

END